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Assam Baptist Missionary Conference Report : American Baptist Foreign Mission Society and Woman's

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American Baptist Foreign Mission Society.

Assam Baptist Missionary Conference Report.

FIFTEENTH SESSION
1917

Contents—Directory—Minutes
Reports of Committees—Communications
By Laws—Standing Resolutions

ASSAM

BAPTIST MISSIONARY CONFERENCE

OF THE

AMERICAN BAPTIST FOREIGN MISSION SOCIETY

REPORT

OF THE

FIFTEENTH SESSION

HELD IN

SIBSAGOR

JANUARY 15 TO 22, 1917

CALCUTTA:

Printed at the Baptist Mission Press

1917.

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THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Conference Officers

SESSION *Jan. 18th to 22nd*, 1917

President	W. F. Dowd
Vice-President	G. R. Kampfer
Clerk	A. C. Bowers
Mission Secretary-Treasurer ..	A. J. Tuttle

Conference Officers and Committees

(To serve till end of next Conference)

President	R. B. Longwell
Vice-President	F. W. Harding
Clerk	A. C. Bowers
Treasurer	Wm. Pettigrew
Statistician	A. K. Mather
Librarian	Mrs. A. E. Stephen
Necrologist	J. Paul

Executive Committee

S A. D. Boggs (*Chairman*)
F. W. Harding (*Corresponding Secretary*)
W. F. Dowd
O. L. Swanson
Miss L. M. Holbrook

Evangelistic Committee

O. L. Swanson (*Chairman*)
Wm. Pettigrew
A. C. Bowers

Property Committee

S. A. D. Boggs (*Chairman*)
J. E. Tanquist
U. M. Fox

Educational Committee

W. F. Dowd (*Chairman*)
R. B. Longwell
Miss E. Crisenberry

Women's Work Committee

Miss L. M. Holbrook (*Chairman*)

Managing Committee, Jorhat Schools

W. F. Dowd
F. W. Harding
O. L. Swanson
Wm. Pettigrew
A. E. Stephen

Editor, Field Reports

A. K. Mather

Committee for Memorial to Dr. Ward and Rev. Jacob Thomas

O. L. Swanson (*Chairman*)
A. C. Bowers
J. Paul

Representative on Bengal-Assam Representative Council

Miss L. M. Holbrook
Wm. Pettigrew

Music Committee

Miss E. Crisenberry (*Chairman*)
Miss E. E. Vickland
Wm. Pettigrew

Exhibit Committee

A. C. Bowers (*Chairman*)
A. K. Mather
J. E. Tanquist

Programme Committee

F. W. Harding (*Chairman*)
Dr. H. W. Kirby
Miss E. Hay
Mrs. W. F. Dowd

Revision of Constitution Committee

S. A. D. Boggs (*Chairman*)
A. C. Bowers
F. W. Harding

Five-Year Programme Committee

Joseph Paul (*Chairman*)
F. W. Harding
J. E. Tanquist
A. E. Stephen

Language Examination Committee

To be appointed by Executive Committee.

MINUTES

OF THE

Assam Baptist Missionary Conference.

FIFTEENTH SESSION.

Held at Sibsagor, Assam,
Jan. 13th to 22nd. 1917.

Saturday Evening, Jan. 13th, 1917.

Prayer Meeting	..	.. J. Paul.

Sunday, Jan. 14th, 1917.

Vernacular Service	..	.. G. R. Kampfer.
Sunday School	..	.. 12-00 noon.
English Service	..	.. P. E. Moore.

Monday Morning, Jan. 15th, 1917.

The Session of Conference was called to order by the President W. F. Dowd.

The devotional service from 8 to 8-15 was conducted by the President.

Committees Appointed.

The following Committees were appointed by the President :—

Resolutions Committee

S. A. D. Boggs (*Chairman*) A. C. Bowers
F. W. Harding Mrs. W. E. Witter
Miss Edith Crisenberry

Needs Committee

M. C. Mason (*Chairman*) J. E. Tanquist
O. L. Swanson Miss Isabella Wilson
Mrs. R. B. Longwell

Printing of Conference Minutes

A. C. Bowers (*Chairman*) A. K. Mather

Time and Place of next Conference

A. E. Stephen (*Chairman*) P. E. Moore
Mrs. S. A. D. Boggs

REPORTING TO PERIODICALS

Watchman Examiner ..	Mrs. W. E. Witter
Standard	A. K. Mather
Journal and Messenger ..	Miss E. Crisenberry
Commonwealth	Mrs. R. B. Longwell
Zion's Advocate	M. C. Mason
Pacific Baptist	A. C. Bowers
Missions	G. R. Kampfer
Burma News	A. E. Stephen
Missionary Review ..	Mrs. S. A. D. Boggs
Times of Assam	J. E. Tanquist
Statesman	J. Paul

Communications from Board.

The Secretary presented correspondence to the Conference as follows :—

The letter to Conference from the Foreign Secretary, which had been duplicated and distributed to the members was mentioned and particular attention was called to those matters which were of special interest or importance.

The following were read in whole or in part :—

Letter of November 29th. 1916, from J. C. Robbins, Foreign Secretary, to A. J. Tuttle. (All but paragraph 1).

Letter of November 27th, 1916, from J. Y Aitchison, Home Secretary, to A. J. Tuttle.

Joint letter of November 29th. 1916. from Assam Missionaries present at the Board Meeting held in Northfield to members of Conference concerning Jorhat School.

Letters of October 9th, 1916, and November 30th, 1916, from C. H. Tilden to A. J. Tuttle.

Letters of August 7th. and September 26th. 1916, from Mr. Robbins, Foreign Secretary, to Mr. Tuttle.

Board action of September 13th. 1916.

Letter of September 14th. 1916, from Miss Prescott, Foreign Secretary, to Mr. Tuttle. (Extracts only).

Letter of September 15th, 1916, from Mrs. Peabody to A. J. Tuttle.

Most of the other correspondence from the Rooms had been circulated to Conference members. The letters from Mr. Tuttle, Secretary, to the Rooms, which had not been circulated to Conference members, were noted and placed in a folder where anyone who desired could read them.

Secretary-Treasurer.

MOVED: that, on account of the present deplorable lack of workers, the office of Mission Secretary-Treasurer be suspended for the time being, and that we revert to our former practice of having a Corresponding Secretary and a Mission Treasurer.

VOTED: to lay on the table.

Jorhat Proposition.

VOTED: that when the Scheme prepared by Mr. Tilden for the development of education in Assam is presented to Conference the manuscript be read through before the Conference prior to discussion on the subject.

Station Reports.

VOTED: that the Station Reports be read before Conference.

That the time-limit for each report be decided by the President.

Rev. H. Halliwell.

The Rev. Herbert Halliwell. Secretary of the India Christian Endeavour Union spoke for a few minutes on work of the Union

VOTED: to adjourn after the devotional hour led by Dr. W. E. Witter.

Monday Afternoon, Jan. 15th, 1917.

Devotional Service, W. Pettigrew.

The afternoon meeting was opened with prayer by Joseph Paul.

Rev. H. Halliwell.

The Rev. Herbert Halliwell continued his address on the work of the India Christian Endeavour Union.

VOTED: that Messrs. Longwell, Mather, Swanson, Tanquist, Pettigrew and Mrs. Boggs be a Committee to bring in a motion regarding C.E. work in Assam

The Conference expressed by a rising vote its appreciation of the visit and address of Mr. Halliwell.

The minutes of the morning meeting were read and approved.

Jorhat Proposition —(*contd.*)

The scheme prepared by Mr. Tilden was read in part by the Secretary-Treasurer.

VOTED: that a chokidar be provided to care for the Exhibit and that the expense be met from the Conference Treasury.

VOTED: that we adjourn after prayer by G. R. Kampfer.

Tuesday Morning, Jan. 16th, 1917.

Devotional Service, O. L. Swanson.

The meeting was opened with prayer by J. E. Tanquist.

The minutes of the afternoon meeting of January 15th were read and approved.

Jorhat Proposition —(*contd.*)

The reading of the Scheme prepared by Mr. Tilden was continued.

Greetings to Missionaries.

VOTED: that through the Mission Secretary, this Conference, at this session, send fraternal greetings to all members of the Conference not present with us this year (those on furlough not excepted), and also to new appointees for Assam, so far as these are known to us.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report.

The Secretary-Treasurer read his report of this year's work.

It was voted to adjourn after the devotional hour led by Dr. W. E. Witter.

Tuesday Afternoon, Jan. 16th, 1917.

Devotional Service, P. E. Moore.

The afternoon meeting was opened with prayer by Dr. H. W. Kirby.

The minutes of the morning meeting were read and approved.

Constitution Revision Committee.

The Committee on Revision of the Constitution made a report and recommendation.

VOTED: to take the motion regarding the Secretary-Treasurer from the table.

Secretary-Treasurer.

VOTED: that, on account of deplorable lack of workers, the office of Mission Secretary-Treasurer be declared vacant until sufficient reinforcements are again given us to enable us to set apart a man for the position, and that in the interim we revert to the former practice of having a Corresponding Secretary and a Mission Treasurer.

VOTED: to substitute Art. IX of the proposed Constitution for Art. V of the present working Constitution, changing in line 1 (1) "four" to "five."

Executive Committee.

VOTED: that we proceed to the election of the Executive Committee.

J. E. Tanquist and A. K. Mather were appointed as tellers. The following were elected:—

W. F. Dowd
F. W. Harding
O. L. Swanson
S. A. D. Boggs
Miss L. M. Holbrook

VOTED: that we adjourn after prayer by R. B. Longwell.

Wednesday Morning, Jan. 17th, 1917.

Devotional Service, S. A. D. Boggs.

The meeting was opened with prayer by P. E. Moore.

The minutes of the Tuesday afternoon meeting were read and approved.

Managing Committee, Jorhat.

The following were elected to fill the vacancies in the Managing Committee of the Jorhat School:—

Wm. Pettigrew
A. E. Stephen
F. W. Harding

Committee on Time and Place.

The Committee on Time and Place for next Conference reported that they recommend that the Conference meet January 10th. to 18th. in Gauhati.

VOTED: to recommit the report.

Correspondent for *Missionary Review.*

Miss E. Crisenberry was elected correspondent for the *Missionary Review.*

Editor, Field Reports.

A. K. Mather was elected as Editor for preparation of reports from Assam for the Annual Report to the Board of Managers.

VOTED: that the Editor of the Field Reports be the Statistician.

Officers for next Conference.

The following officers for the next Conference were elected:—

President ..	.. R. B. Longwell
Vice-President	.. F. W. Harding
Clerk ..	.. A. C. Bowers

Instruction for Printing.

VOTED: that the same limit for the number of words allowed each field report in the printed Report be the same as last year.

VOTED: that 200 copies of the field reports be printed and that copies be distributed among the Assam missionaries, and that copies be sent to the Rooms, and to other Conferences and that the remainder be deposited in the Conference Library.

VOTED: that the Minutes and Reports be printed in one volume.

VOTED: that the Committee be instructed that they shall not delay the printing of the Minutes and Reports longer than February 15th; that in case any report should not be received in time to print, a statement to this effect shall be inserted in the printed reports and, furthermore, that a few copies of the minutes be bound immediately to send to the Rooms.

Treasurer.

VOTED: that the Executive Committee be requested to nominate the successor to the present Treasurer.

VOTED: that we adjourn after the devotional hour led by Dr. W. E. Witter.

Wednesday Afternoon, Jan. 17th, 1917.

Devotional Service. Miss E. E. Vickland.

The afternoon meeting was opened with prayer by Dr. Kirby.

The minutes of the morning meeting were read and approved.

Reply to Conference Letter.

VOTED: that A. J. Tuttle be appointed to draft the letter from Conference in reply to the letter of the Board.

Goalpara North Bank.

The subject "Shall we Discontinue our Work on the North Bank of the Brahmaputra River in the Goalpara District?" was opened by A. C. Bowers.

VOTED: that the question be referred to the Joint Reference and Executive Committee in consultation with Mr. Bowers to bring in a resolution before the end of this Conference.

Jorhat Proposition—(*contd.*)

VOTED: that the items mentioned in Mr. Tilden's letter of November 24th, 1916, be considered seriatim.

MOVED: that we, as a Conference, approve proposal No. 1.

Committee on Conference Expenses.

The Chairman appointed U. M. Fox, A. E. Stephen, P. E. Moore as the Committee on Conference Expenses.

VOTED: that we adjourn after prayer.

Thursday Morning, Jan. 18th, 1917.

Devotional Service, U. M. Fox.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Wm. Pettigrew.

The minutes of the afternoon meeting of January 17th were read and approved.

Jorhat Proposition—(*contd.*)

Continuing the discussion of the previous afternoon on the Educational Policy for Assam, it was

VOTED: that a Committee be appointed to bring in a definite recommendation on the whole of the Educational Policy, with special reference to its bearing on the Jorhat Schools.

The following were appointed: Wm Pettigrew. F. W. Harding and R. B. Longwell.

VOTED: that ten minutes only be allowed for consideration of each proposal contained in the letter, excepting No. 1 which has been thoroughly discussed.

During the discussion which followed all the proposals were considered.

Secretary's Report.

After consideration of various suggestions contained in the report of the Secretary, it was

Conduct of Treasury.

VOTED: that the recommendation contained in A.C.R. No. 1108 be approved by Conference, with the amendment that appropriations for work may not be drawn more than three months in advance except on recommendation of the Executive Committee.

Probationers.

VOTED: that the consideration of the question regarding new missionaries as probationers be deferred till after the Newton Center Conference.

Women's Work.

MOVED: that the propositions contained in the resolution referred by the Reference Committee regarding the Girls' Boarding School, etc. for upper Assam as referred by the Reference Committee to Conference for consideration, be approved by the Conference,

Women's Hospital Plant.

and that the proposition regarding Women's Hospital Plant referred by the Reference Committee to the Conference be approved by the Conference.

VOTED: to adjourn after the devotional hour led by Dr. W. E. Witter.

Thursday Afternoon, Jan. 18th, 1917.

Devotional Service.

The minutes of the morning meeting were read and approved.

VOTED: that Miss Henderson be invited to sit with us in Conference.

Women's Work—(*contd.*)

VOTED: that the motion before the house regarding women's work be laid on the table.

Committee on Jorhat Proposition—(*contd.*)

The Committee appointed to bring in a resolution regarding the Jorhat Proposition presented the following report:—

1. That we approve in general of Jorhat as a centre for technical, academic, and biblical education; as a centre also for medical work, and as a possible centre for business and administrative work for the whole Mission.
2. That we approve of the purchase of the land needed as shown in Map I, particularly the purchase of the Chalmer's property as an industrial site; and use of the land already purchased for industrial site for a hospital, the doctor's residence and residence of single ladies.
3. That we approve of grouping and location of buildings as shown on Map II as follows: Academic group, Bible School group, hostel group, and teachers' village group.
4. That we approve of the design for Bible school building at a cost of not less than $5,000.00.
5. That we approve of the design for academic school building to be erected in quality similar to the Bible School.
6. That we approve of the investment of about $100,000 for Jorhat in buildings, land, equipment, including industrial equipment, also an endowment in terms of A.C.R. Case 1102.
7. That we approve of five missionary families, a trained nurse, and a business lady.

The Committee also suggested that the following cable be sent to the Board:—

"Conference approves in general proposed scheme for Jorhat."

VOTED: to adopt the recommendations of the Committee.

Women's Work.

VOTED: to take the motion regarding women's work from the table.

MOVED: the following resolution as a substitution for the motion before the house: The Conference ask for a plant for education of women in Upper Assam from the Mrs. Rockefeller Bequest.

In case the Mrs. Rockefeller Bequest is exhausted, we request that this scheme be placed on the schedule of the approved needs to be procured as early as possible.

VOTED: to lay the motion on the table.

VOTED: that the Conference approve A.C.R. Case 1092 regarding the need of women's work in Impur.

VOTED: to take from the table the substitute motion regarding women's work in Upper Assam.

VOTED: to adopt the substitute motion regarding women's work.

Women's Hospital Plant—(*contd.*)

VOTED: that a Committee be appointed to bring in a resolution regarding medical work for women in Assam.

The following Committee was appointed: Dr. Kirby, Miss Wilson and Miss Crisenberry.

Committee on C.E.

The Committee recommended that the Assam Mission Conference, at this session, select one of its members to encourage, promote and organize the local C.E. Societies in Assam, with a view to affiliation with the India Christian Endeavour Union.

VOTED: to adopt the report.

Mr. Mather was appointed.

Field Reports.

The Chairman ruled that the reports from one-man stations be allowed ten minutes, the reports from other stations fifteen minutes.

Sadiya.

Dr. Kirby reported for Sadiya.

Sibsagor.

O. L. Swanson and Joseph Paul reported for the Sibsagor field.

Directory in "Review."

VOTED: that the Directory of the Assam Mission in the *Missionary Review* be continued, and that the Treasurer be instructed to pay the bill.

Authority to Executive Committee to co-opt.

As the Executive Committee is made up altogether of new members it was

VOTED: that the Executive Committee be authorized to co-opt for consultation a member of the old Committee, if necessary, in the conduct of the business of the Mission.

VOTED: to adjourn after prayer.

Friday Morning, Jan. 19th, 1917.

Devotional Service, A. E. Stephen.

The meeting was opened with prayer by J. E. Tanquist.

The minutes of the afternoon meeting were read and approved.

Secretary's Report.

In consideration of further recommendations contained in the Secretary's report:

VOTED: that it is the sense of Conference that members of Conference when presenting board bills for attendance on

Conference or Committee sessions, deduct at least Re. 1 per day as the cost of living at home.

Conservation of Mission Property.

VOTED: that in view of the position of the Board of Managers regarding the conservation of Mission property, the missionaries be instructed to see to it that possession of land be not pre-empted by the erection of buildings out of private funds by native workers or others, and that they be further required to assess rent for dwelling and land belonging to the Mission when occupied by workers or others, any amount so realized to be disposed of as may be decided by the Executive Committee.

That in case lands or dwellings are already occupied, the missionaries are instructed to take immediate steps to so safeguard the title of the Mission that there can be no question as to our right, at the same time urging that great tact be exercised, so as to avoid unnecessary litigation, and that before any litigation is undertaken the matter be referred to the Executive Committee for sanction.

Committee on Relations Women's Society.

The subject "The Relation of Field Administration to the Work of Representatives of the Women's Society" was opened by A. J. Tuttle.

The following Committee was appointed to present definite recommendations: Mrs. Boggs, Miss Crisenberry, Mr. Harding.

Annual Financial Reports.

VOTED: that Conference approve the A.C.R. No. 1077 requesting that copies of Annual Financial Reports and covering letters be sent to the Executive Committee.

Bengal-Assam Council.

Referring to the A.C.R. No. 1117,

In view of the increase of our appropriations it was

VOTED: that we do not withdraw from the Bengal-Assam Council.

Five-year Programme.

VOTED: that a Committee be appointed to promote the interests of the Five-Year Programme in Assam.

Joseph Paul, J. E. Tanquist, F. W. Harding, A. E. Stephen were appointed as the Committee.

General Treasurer.

VOTED: that we request our delegates to the Newton Centre Conference to consult with the missionaries from Bengal-Orissa, S. India, and Burma regarding the feasibility of the scheme for a single Treasurer for all these Missions, and to present the matter to the Board.

VOTED: that we adjourn after the devotional hour led by Dr. W. E. Witter.

Friday Afternoon, Jan. 19th, 1917.

Devotional Service, Dr. H. W. Kirby.

The meeting was opened with prayer by S. A. D. Boggs.

The minutes of the morning meeting were read and approved.

Executive Committee Report.

The Executive Committee reported that they had met and organized by choosing S. A. D. Boggs, Chairman, W. F. Dowd, Secretary.

The Committee also recommended that Wm. Pettigrew be recommended to the Board for Mission Treasurer for Assam, and that pending final word from the Board that Mr. Pettigrew be asked to take over the treasurership from Mr. Tuttle.

Church Statistics, Conference Librarian.

The report of the committees on uniform forms for reporting Church statistics and of the Conference Librarian was read by G. R. Kampfer and adopted.

Report of Committee on Needs.

The report of Committee on Needs was read, and it was voted to recommit the report

Women's Hospital Plant—(*contd.*)

Mrs. Witter was appointed to fill the vacancy in the Committee on Medical Work for Women.

Report of the Committee on Marriage and Divorce.

As the Committee on Marriage and Divorce reported that nothing had been done during the year, the Conference expressed itself as being of the opinion that, on account of the lack of workers, the present year does not seem suitable for continuing this Committee, but that its work should be continued when the number of missionaries again permits.

Memorial to Rev. J. Thomas and Dr. Ward.

The Committee on Memorial to Rev. Jacob Thomas and Dr. Ward reported that nothing had been done. It was

VOTED: that the Committee be continued with the addition of Joseph Paul, and that correspondence be had with Mrs. Bucknell regarding her father's grave.

Statistician's Report.

A. J. Tuttle reported as Statistician for 1916.

Time and Place of Conference.

The Committee on Time and Place for next Conference reported, recommending that Conference meet early in November, but that in view of the visit of Secretary Robbins, the exact date be announced later by the Corresponding Secretary.

The report was adopted.

Representative for Bengal-Assam Representative Council.

Wm. Pettigrew was elected representative for the Bengal-Assam Representative Council, *vice* A. J. Tuttle.

Golaghat Report.

O. L. Swanson reported for the Golaghat field.

Ukhrul Report.

Wm. Pettigrew reported for the Manipur field.

Kohima Report.

J. E. Tanquist reported for Kohima.

VOTED: that we adjourn after prayer.

Saturday Morning, January 20th, 1917.

Devotional Service, A. C. Bowers.

The meeting was opened with prayer by O. L. Swanson.

The minutes of the Friday afternoon were read and approved.

Review of Conference Expense Bills.

VOTED: that the Executive Committee be authorized to have bills for attending Conference reviewed before payment by the Mission Treasurer.

National Council regarding Comity.

VOTED: that a Committee be appointed to consider and bring in recommendations regarding the instruction of our delegates on the question of Comity, referred to us by the National Council.

G. R. Kampfer, O. L. Swanson, P. E. Moore were appointed.

Appeal to Conference—(*contd.*)

VOTED: that Conference accede to Mr. Tanquist's request to print his translation of Revelation in Angami Naga, at the expense of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

Delegates to Newton Centre Conference.

The Secretary announced that as a result of the ballot by correspondence for delegates to the Newton Centre Conference that G. G. Crozier and A. J. Tuttle were elected. It was further

VOTED: that the unanimous ballot of the Conference be cast for C. H. Tilden as one of our representatives at Newton Centre. Also that L. W. B. Jackman be substituted for A. J. Tuttle, providing it should be impossible for Mr. Tuttle to reach America in time for the Conference.

VOTED: that W. C. Mason and Dr. Bailey be alternates.

VOTED: that Miss Long be the representative for Women's work, with Miss Bond as alternate.

Conference of all Baptist Missionaries.

VOTED: that the Corresponding Secretary be requested to answer the communication from the Bengal-Orissa Conference regarding calling a Conference of all missionaries in India practising immersion and having the congregational form of church government.

N.E. Frontier.

VOTED: that the whole question regarding the N.E. Frontier be deferred. pending the visit of Secretary Robbins.

Joint Committee, Goalpara North Bank.

The Joint Reference and Executive Committee reported :—

I. That the Joint Committee recommends that the Conference cable to Boston, asking the Board to make an appropriation of Rs. 15,000 to be available not later than the fall of 1917. for the acquisition of property at Dhubri for the work in Goalpara District North, stating that the alternative would be abandoning that work.

II. That Mr. and Mrs. Bowers be requested to reside in Goalpara until the cabled reply to our cable be received.

III. That, if funds are not made available. Mr. and Mrs. Bowers be transferred from Goalpara.

VOTED: to adopt the report.

VOTED: to adjourn after the devotional hour led by Dr. W. E Witter.

Saturday Afternoon, January 20th, 1917.

Devotional Service, J. E. Tanquist.

The meeting was opened with prayer by the President.

The minutes of the morning meeting were read and approved.

Appeal of J. E. Tanquist—(*contd.*)

VOTED: that the question of Mr Tanquist's appeal be reconsidered.

VOTED: to refer the matter to two members of the Reference Committee and Mr. Tanquist.

R. B. Longwell and Wm. Pettigrew were appointed.

Executive Committee Report.

The Chairman of the Executive Committee reported that F. W. Harding had been chosen Corresponding Secretary instead of W. F. Dowd, and he also announced the appointment of the following Committees :—

Evangelistic Committee	*Educational Committee*
O. L. Swanson	W F. Dowd
Wm. Pettigrew	R. B. Longwell
A. C. Bowers	Miss E. Crisenberry

Property Committee

S. A. D. Boggs
J. E. Tanquist
U. M. Fox

Women's Work

Miss L. M. Holbrook

Committee on Relations Women's Society—(*contd.*)

Miss Crisenberry read the report of the Committee on the Relation of Women's Work to Field Administration.

REPORT OF THE WOMEN'S COUNCIL.

The meeting was called to order by the President. The meeting opened with devotional service by Mrs. W. E. Witter.

The Secretary being absent Miss Edith Crisenberry was chosen Secretary *pro tem.*

A vote on the choice of a lady representative for the Newton Centre Conference to be held April 25th-May 8th. 1917, resulted in the election of Miss Anna Long as our representative, and Miss Ella Bond as the alternate.

A survey of the field was read by Miss Vickland, consisting of reports on work done by women for women and children on the various fields. It was voted that this report be published in the Assam Number of the *Missionary Review* next April.

The meeting was adjourned to meet January 17th.

January 17th, 1917.

The meeting was opened by a devotional service led by Miss Vickland.

Greetings were extended to Miss Henderson of the Zenana Mission of Darjeeling who was with us.

It was voted that we have a purdah party for the ladies of Sibsagor Saturday evening, January 20th. A Committee on Arrangements was appointed.

It was voted to hand over the Secretary's Book and cash in hand to the Chairman of the Women's Committee of Conference.

A paper entitled "Glimpses from Other Fields" was read by Mrs. M. C. Mason. It was voted that this paper be translated into Assamese and published as a continued article in "Dipthi" as an expression of our appreciation of it.

Mrs. Kirby gave a vocal solo.

"Bible verses that have helped me" were given by members of the Council.

After the singing of the Doxology the meeting was adjourned.

FULLISWAR INSTITUTION, SIBSAGOR, ASSAM.

At the earnest request of the Principal of the Institution the ladies of the Women's Council held a purdah party for the ladies of Sibsagar on the evening of January 20th.

The ladies were introduced in turn by Mrs. Boggs to the large audience of women and children gathered, and a few facts about each one's Station and work were given. Several musical numbers were given by Miss Vickland, Mrs. Boggs, Mrs. Kirby, Mrs. Longwell, and Mrs. Dowd.

War pictures were shown on the screen and explained by Mr. Paul. At the close several Bible pictures were also shown.

The programme closed by the singing of "God Save the King."

Report of Committee on Relation of Women's Work.

We believe that the new organization as provided for in Article V of the present constitution will facilitate co-ordination of work, give a fairer trial and make more successful the second year of the experiment of having a representative of the Women's Board upon the Executive Committee.

RESOLVED: that Article V (2) of the present Constitution be made to read as follows: "The Property Committee. . . . shall consist of three members each, and the Women's Committee shall consist of five members, three single ladies and two married ladies and shall be appointed by" etc.

Amendment to Constitution. (Letter of July, 1915).

The Women's Committee shall be on a par with the other standing Committees of Conference.

Matters relating to women's work shall be presented to the Executive Committee, in the same way that all other matters are presented to the Executive Committee. These will, when necesary, be referred to the Women's Committee for information and advice. The findings of this Committee shall be presented in writing to the Executive Committee by the Chairman of the Women's Committee.

In the Executive Committee the lady representative will have the same powers of voting and freedom of judgment and action as the other members of the Executive Committee. (See Joint letter 8-1-15.)

VOTED: to adopt the report.

Women's Hospital Plant—(*contd.*)

The Committee on Women's Medical Work reported:—

1. That for the establishment of the Women's Hospital Plant and Nurses' Training Home for the Assam Valley, as recom-

mended in the resolutions of the Conference of 1916, and placed upon the Five-Year Programme List of Needs for 1919. the sum of Rs 45,000 be requested from the Rockefeller Bequest or from specific gifts in case the fund is exhausted.

2. That a Lady Doctor and a trained Nurse be sent out this fall (1917), and, pending the full establishment of the Hospital and Nurses' Training Home somewhere in the Assam Valley, that these two ladies be stationed in Nowgong to meet the immediate need of medical aid and provision for Girls' School there.

MOVED: to adopt the report.

VOTED: to amend, providing the funds for a Girls' Boarding School in Upper Assam and a Hospital and a Training Plant for Women for the Valley cannot both be provided for out of the Rockefeller Bequest, the school for Upper Assam have the prior claim.

VOTED: to adopt the report as amended.

VOTED: to have a meeting of Conference on Monday morning.

Appeal of J. E. Tanquist—(*contd.*)

The Committee. appointed to bring in recommendations regarding Mr. Tanquist's appeal from the action of the A.C.R. in case No. 1061, recommended that the Conference approve the action of the A.C.R. as set forth in Resolution 1061, and in vote No. 13, but, inasmuch as the question of orthography has been settled, and inasmuch as Mr. Tanquist has translated the Book of Revelation, and the British and Foreign Bible Society are willing to print this translation, it is recommended that Mr. Tanquist be given the privilege of proceeding with the printing.

VOTED: to adopt the report.

Jorhat Proposition—(*contd.*)

In consideration of the question of a mission builder and physician in connection with the Jorhat proposition, it was

MOVED: that actions of the Reference Committee as contained in A.C.R. 1090 and 1091 be approved by the Conference.

VOTED: to amend by substitution to adopt Resolution No. 1090.

VOTED: to lay on the table Resolution No. 1091.

VOTED: to adjourn

Sunday, Jan. 21st, 1917.

Vernacular Sermon, O. L. Swanson.

Sunday School, 12-00 noon.

English service, Afternoon, F. W. Harding.

Prayer and Praise service, Evening, J. Paul.

Monday Morning, Jan. 22nd, 1917.

Devotional Service, Miss E. Crisenberry.

The minutes of the meeting of Saturday afternoon were read and approved.

The meeting was opened with prayer by R. B. Longwell.

Printing Conference Minutes.

VOTED: to reconsider the motion regarding the printing of the Conference minutes.

VOTED: to amend that the Minutes and the Field Reports be bound in separate volumes.

VOTED: to adopt the motion as amended.

Language Examination Committee.

Wm. Pettigrew reported for the Language Examination Committee.

VOTED: to adopt the report.

Educational Council.

Wm. Pettigrew read the report of the Educational Council.

VOTED: to adopt the report.

Committee on Needs.

The report of the Committee on Needs was read by J. E. Tanquist.

MOVED: to adopt the report.

VOTED: to amend the report by inserting the action regarding two ladies recommended for medical work in Nowgong, among the list of Immediate Needs.

VOTED: to refer the report to the Committee on Needs and the Secretary.

Committee for Next Conference.

The President for next Conference announced the following Committees for the next Conference.

Music Committee

Miss Crisenbery, Miss Vickland and Wm. Pettigrew

Exhibit Committee

A. C. Bowers, A. K. Mather, J. E. Tanquist

Programme Committee

F. W. Harding, Miss Hay, Dr. Kirby, Mrs. Dowd

Necrologist

J. Paul

Librarian

Mrs. Stephen

Standing Resolutions Committee.

S. A. D. Boggs reported for the Committee on Standing Resolutions.

VOTED: to adopt the resolution regarding designation of missionaries.

VOTED: to adopt the resolution regarding conduct of work.

VOTED: to adopt the resolution regarding Secretary-Treasurer.

VOTED: to adopt paragraph 1 and paragraphs 2 (*a*) and 2(*b*) of the Rules for Scripture Translation.

VOTED: to adjourn till 2 o'clock.

Monday Afternoon, Jan. 22nd, 1917.

Devotional Service, A. E. Stephen.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Dr. Witter and R. B. Longwell.

Constitution Revision Committee.

VOTED: that the present Constitution Revision Committee be continued to report at next Conference and that vacancies on the Committee be filled.

VOTED: that the draft of the proposed Constitution be sent to the Home Board requesting that they make any remarks or recommendations on the same.

F. W. Harding was elected to fill the vacancy.

Standing Resolutions Committee—(*contd.*)

In continuing the discussion of the report of the Resolutions Committee, it was

VOTED: to adopt paragraph iii of the Resolution regarding Scripture Translation.

VOTED: to adopt paragraph iv.

VOTED: to adopt the resolution regarding translation as a whole.

VOTED: to adopt resolution proposed in A.C.R. No. 1077, regarding copies of the Annual Reports.

Printing Standing Resolutions.

VOTED: that the Printing Committee be instructed to have all Standing Resolutions, together with all material of a similar character of present value in the minutes of former Conferences printed in the minutes of each Conference.

That the action of the Reference Committee contained in A.C.R. 1108 be inserted among the Standing Resolutions.

Secretary's Report.

VOTED: that the report of the Secretary be adopted.

Five-Year Programme.

The report of the Committee on Five-Year Programme reported recommending that,

In response to the suggestion of the Board of Managers, in a recent letter, we hereby heartily adopt the Five-Year Programme, its five goals and five aims; and that we inform the Board that this Conference, in harmony with our other Missions, has taken steps to co-operate in every way possible as a Mission to realize every goal and aim of the Programme.

VOTED: to adopt the report.

Conference Expense Committee.

The Committee on Conference expenses reported, and it was

VOTED: to adopt the report and authorize the Treasurer to pay the bills submitted totalling Rs. 155-11-0 with the understanding that the outstanding bills are to be submitted to the other members of the Committee; and, providing they are confirmed, that the Treasurer be authorized to pay them; and furthermore to instruct the Treasurer to apportion the total amount among the missionaries on the field and those at home who were on the field at the time of Conference.

Resolution of Thanks.

It was unanimously voted to express the hearty thanks of Conference to Mr. and Mrs. Fox and Mr. Paul for their hospitality and kindness in entertaining this Conference.

Treasurer's Report.

The Conference Treasurer's report was read and it was

VOTED: to adopt the report.

Committee on Comity.

G. R. Kampfer read the report of the Committee on Comity.

Since questions of Comity have recently been favourably settled in our Mission, and since the agreement is in harmony with the statement of the National Missionary Council (Oct. 27-31, 1916, pp. 14-18) we express our approval of the same.

VOTED: to adopt the report, and to instruct our representatives to the Bengal-Assam Representative Council to act in

accordance with the tenor of the report of the National Missionary Council unless there be decided reasons for a different action.

Committee on Needs. The Commitee on Needs reported and it was

VOTED: to adopt the report.

Conference adjourned.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON NEEDS, 1917.

At our Conference a year ago it was reported that no fewer than seven families must be sent to Assam before the end of that year, if work already existing was not to be crippled. Notwithstanding our appeal only two families were appointed, and these have not arrived but are scheduled to arrive next autumn. The Committee at that time reported its conviction that the minimum requisite for keeping up the work in hand was seven new families in the autumn of 1916, and notwithstanding this we did not get a single new family for Assam during the entire year. The Committee finds difficulty in wording its report this year so as to adequately emphasize our present needs. We can do no better than to begin at one end of the field, and point out, station by station, the needs which seem absolutely imperative for the coming year, together with several of the most urgent as presented in our Five-Year Programme for the year 1916-17. (Our needs as presented in the Five-Year Programme must all be considered as urgent). In a few instances where, owing to new or changed conditions, there is a slight discrepancy between this report and the Five-Year Programme for Assam. We would suggest that the Conference instruct the Secretary of the Executive Committee to bring the Five-Year Programme, as recommended, into accord with this report, and, after making the necessary changes, to communicate the same to the Board of Managers

The Committee reported as follows:—

Our Most Imperative Needs.

Tura

One family (Physician).
One other family.
Two men for industrial work.

Goalpara

Mission residence at Dhubri.

Gauhati

One family for student work.
One family for the North Bank.*
One lady for evangelistic work.

Nowgong (District)

One family for general work.
Two ladies (Physician and Nurse). †
One family for work among Mikirs
(Extensive repairs on A.B.F.M.S bungalow.)
(One bungalow for the Mikir work.)

Golaghat

One family for evangelistic work.

Jorhat

One family (educational). ‡

Sibsagor

Mission residence at Tinsukia.
One family for evangelistic work at Tinsukia.
One bungalow for the Sibsagor Field.

N. Lakhimpur and Bishnath

One family for evangelistic work
One bungalow.

Impur

Two ladies § .. { Provision for a woman's bungalow.

Kohima

One family for general work.

Manipur

One family (Physician.)
One bungalow.

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* Either a returning or a new family.

† With temporary residence in Nowgong until such time as the medical plant for women shall be established.

‡ It is understood that Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Anderson have been appointed and designated for this work.

§ It is confidently hoped that the Women's Board will continue to regard the need at Impur as of prime importance and will secure at an early date the ladies prepared to take up this particular work.

Upper Assam

Complete educational and evangelistic plant for women and girls.
Two ladies.*

All Assam

One Mission builder.
One family to release man chosen as successor to Mission Secretary-Treasurer.
General medical plant for women.

Urgent Needs

It will be noticed that we most urgently need for the year 1917-1918—

12 Families.
7 Ladies.
2 Industrial men.
1 Mission Builder.
5 Bungalows.
1 Girls' Plant.
1 Women's Medical Plant.

Two families, however, seem to have been provided for. and possibly also one lady, reducing the list by just that many.

The need of a Mission residence at Dhubri from which place to prosecute the work on the North Bank in the Goalpara District has long been recognized, but now this need has become so acute that the question of abandoning a promising work seems to be the alternative.

With regard to the need of the Impur field, we might add that it is gratifying to note from a recent communication from Miss Prescott that one lady has now been found and that the other one is being earnestly sought for.

The need of securing a Mission residence and of locating a family at that promising centre Tinsukia, where there was formerly a German Mission, has become most pronounced, so much the more since the Government headquarters for the Lakhimpur District are to be removed to Tinsukia in the near future.

We wish to submit this bare statement of most imperative and urgent needs for the present year as our report to the Conference at this time.

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* In view of the promised return of Miss Holmes, together with her sister, it is possible that Miss Vickland who personally prefers educational work in Upper Assam, would be available as one of the two asked for.

Review of Letter.

VOTED: that Dr. Witter and G. R. Kampfer be appointed as a Committee to review the letter on behalf of Conference in reply to the Conference letter.

Greetings to the M.E. Conference.

VOTED: that W. F. Dowd be requested to express in person our greetings to the Methodist Conference in Calcutta.

Auditing Committee.

The Executive Committee announced the appointment of R. B. Longwell and F. W. Harding as the Auditors for the Treasurer's account for next year.

Property Committee Report.

The special Committee for the Nowgong bungalow, Gauhati Hostel and Women's Compound reported.

The report was adopted.

REPORT OF THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE.

Lower Assam Circle.

The special Committee appointed to examine the Nowgong bungalow submitted a report to the effect that, owing to the war involving very high prices of building material. the old building be thoroughly renovated and repaired at an estimated cost of Rs. 4,000 plus re-thatching Rs. 600.

A rough plan for the new "Gertrude Lewis Memorial Hostel" in Gauhati was drawn up and the location in a south-westerly direction from the bungalow determined upon, but final plans and full specifications have not yet been submitted.

The building operations on the new compound of the W.A.B.F.M.S. have, in spite of serious damage by a tornado and the great demand on Mr. Carvell's time gone on favourably and are approaching completion The bungalow is very nearly complete; only the doors and windows and the cook-house are still under way. The school building is ready for use and classes have been meeting in all the rooms for some time. The land in front of the compound was purchased and now offers an unobstructed approach to the site.

In Tika the Mission bungalow was struck by lightning and completely destroyed by fire. Some of the building material stored there for the new camp house was destroyed.

Upper Assam Circle.

Considerable building operations have been going on at Jorhat. The building of a new Missionary bungalow was

started and is well under way at the present time. During the course of the year the small boys' dormitory was entirely remodelled a well-built teachers' house completed, the large boys' dormitory with a dining hall all finished but the doors and windows and lower floor, and the site for the new infirmary determined upon. There were also several plots of valuable land purchased and arrangements made for the purchase of the Chalmers' property including bungalow and electrical equipment.

Naga Hills Circle.

No building operations. No report.

General.

The Committee would recommend that all accounts relating to building and extensive repairs under the direction of the Property Committee be presented for auditing, and that the Executive Committee make provision for having such accounts audited.

Property Committee Rules.

VOTED: that the Property Committee rules which have been in force to date, continue in force with the provision that only the Chairman of the General Property Committee must be a member of the Executive Committee.

The minutes of the afternoon meeting were read and approved.

VOTED: to adjourn to meet in Gauhati in November, 1917.

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE LIBRARIAN.

During the year copies of new publications were sent in by Mr. Pettigrew only.

Manipuri—Luke, John and Acts.

Thado—Kuki, I Primer.

Respectfully submitted.

G. R. KAMPFER.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FORMS FOR CHURCH STATISTICS.

1,000 forms, foolscap size, have been printed in Assamese and distributed among the various stations using Assamese. The expense was met by the Assamese Literature Committee and will be redeemed from sales of the forms. Only 1,000 were printed as an experiment, and after a few years no doubt some changes in the form will become necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

G. R. KAMPFER.

REPORT OF LANGUAGE EXAMINATION COMMITTEE.

(1) Three candidates have appeared for language examination in Assamese during the period since last Conference.

Mr. Fox appeared for his first year's examination in July 1916. He had requested his examination two months earlier. Mr. Tuttle and Mr. Boggs conducted the examination.

Miss Vickland appeared for her first year's examination just before this session of Conference.

Examiners:—S. A. D. Boggs, Rev. Henry Goldsmith, Srijut Indreawar Borthakur, and Narakanta Das.

Miss Hay appeared for her second year's examination in December, 1916.

Examiners:—Mr. Tuttle, Dr. Witter, Mr. Kampfer, Srijuto Levi Farwell and Mohendra Lal Das.

All three candidates passed the examination.

Mr. Tanquist appeared for his second year's examination in Angami Naga in June 1916 and passed.

Examiners:—Mr. Pettigrew, Mr. Kampfer, C. A. Mitchell, and Zapuzhulie.

(2) The proposal to put into shape curricula for examinations in the several centres and arrange committees of examination in each of the languages was circulated to the members of the committee, but at the time of making this report all the matter necessary to make a final report to the Conference has not been sent in to the Secretary of this Committee. The Committee therefore recommend that what has been collected, should be handed over to the Executive Committee for in-

formation and for the purpose of putting this important matter into final shape. (Proposal re Language Examination Committee, see Mission Conference Report, 1916, page 21).

(3) The Committee recommend Article VI of the proposed By-Laws, which reads as follows :—

> "The Executive Committee shall appoint Language Examination committees for the languages in which examinations are likely to be held, who shall conduct the examinations in accordance with the rules which shall be adopted by the Conference."

(4) In accordance with Vote 17 of the A.C.R., the matter of the S.P.G. missionaries sitting with our missionaries for examination in Assamese, as per letter from the Bishop of Assam dated April 5th, 1916, was considered, and it is the consensus of opinion in the committee that the Mission Secretary be requested to inform the Bishop of Assam that the Committee heartily agree in inviting the missionaries of the S.P.G. to sit with our missionaries at examination time.

Respectfully submitted.

WM. PETTIGREW,

Secretary.

REPORT OF THE EDUCATIONAL COUNCIL FOR 1916.

Since the last report of the Council, only two matters have been put up for an expression of opinion.

(1) On August 16th, 1916, the Chairman of the Council sent the following motion round to the members :—

> "That the Educational Council of the Assam Baptist Mission approve of the proposition to ask the Woman's Baptist Foreign Mission Society for an appropriation from the bequest of Mrs. J. D. Rockefeller to establish a boarding school for girls in Upper Assam; and that the Assam Reference-Property Committee be requested to estimate the cost of a suitable plant for the school and take measures to secure the needed appropriation; it being understood that the question of location will be decided later in consultation with the missionaries concerned."

Result of Votes :—Four affirmative, one negative.

The matter was put before the Reference-Property Committee, and, after considerable discussion, was referred to the next Conference at Sibsagar.

(2) Vote 25 of the A.C.R., that "the Educational Council be requested to at once enter into investigations regarding the pros and cons of co-operation with Government in the Garo Hills and other non-regulation districts in Educational work. and present their findings at the January Conference of 1917 at Sibsagar for consideration and vote by the Assam Conference", was considered by the members of the Council at two meetings held at Sibsagar during the Conference in consultation with the Tura missionaries and hereby recommend to the Conference that, "the districts mentioned in the A.C.R., Vote 25, continue to receive grants-in-aid for the present from Government, and that we recommend the Education Committee to gather further information."

Respectfully submitted.

W. F. Dowd,
Chairman.

Wm. Pettigrew,
Secretary.

PROVISIONAL CONSTITUTION.

Article I.

This body shall be called the Assam Baptist Missionary Conference.

Article II.

It shall be composed of the Missionaries of the Assam Baptist Mission.

Article III.

Its object shall be the extension of Christ's Kingdom in the Province and border-lands of Assam. In pursuit of this object, the Conference shall (1) seek the enlargement and enrichment of the spiritual life of its members; (2) by discussing the needs and methods of work of the whole field, and by aiming at systematic combination and division of labours, endeavour to secure the highest attainable degree of efficiency; (3) exercise such powers in behalf of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society as may be delegated to the Conference.

ARTICLE IV.

The officers of this Conference shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Clerk, Mission Secretary and a Treasurer.

ARTICLE V.

This Conference shall meet at the time and place previously appointed.

ARTICLE VI.

This Conference shall keep a record of its transactions which shall be printed and distributed as shall be determined at each session.

ARTICLE VII.

This Constitution or the By-laws following may be amended, without previous notice, at any session of the Conference by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

PROVISIONAL BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE I.

The meetings of the Conference shall be opened and closed with prayer.

ARTICLE II.

All officers shall be elected by ballot. Before the close of each session of Conference the officers of the following session shall be elected, and shall assume office at the close of the session at which they were elected.

ARTICLE III.

Roberts' Rules of Order shall be the guide in all deliberations of the Conference.

ARTICLE IV.

All questions, voted on by the Conference in session, except proposed amendments to the Constitutions or By-laws, shall be decided by a majority of votes cast.

ARTICLE V.

(1) The Executive Committee shall consist of five members, one of whom shall be a representative of the W.A.B.F.M.S.

They shall be elected by Conference at its annual session and shall take office at the close of the session at which they were elected. They shall be eligible for re-election. (2) Any member who leaves Assam for four months or longer or is incapacitated for active service for two months or longer thereby automatically vacates his place on the Executive Committee. (3) The Executive Committee shall have power to fill unexpected vacancies. (4) All elections to the office of Secretary-Treasurer, and to the Executive Committee shall be without solicitations either by the candidate or by others.

2. The Property Committee, the Educational Committee and the Evangelistic Committee shall each consist of three members, the Women's Committee shall consist of five members, three single ladies and two married ladies, and shall be appointed by the Executive Committee, the Chairman of each of said Committees being a member of the Reference Committee.

Article VI.

The Executive Committee shall appoint language examination committees for the languages in which examinations are likely to be held, who shall conduct the examinations in accordance with the rules adopted by Conference.

Article VII.

The Mission Secretary shall be an ex-officio member of all Standing Committees of the Conference.

Article VIII.

In case of necessity the Committee of Reference shall be authorized to fill any vacancies that may occur during the interim between the sessions of Conference.

VOTED: that a Committee of three be appointed by the President to draft a permanent Constitution and By-laws and report at the next Conference session.

RULES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE MISSION SECRETARY.

1. As provided in Article IV of the Provisional Constitution, at each session of Conference a Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected by the members of the Assam Baptist Missionary Conference from among their number to serve till the following

Conference session; he shall be eligible to re-election; and he shall retain his standing as a missionary with respect to Conference during his term of service.

2. Except in his duties as Mission Treasurer as defined by the Board of Managers, he shall be responsible to Conference and shall circulate among the members promptly such of his official correspondence with the Board of Managers as is of general interest and value to the Mission, but strictly personal matters shall be sent only to the parties concerned. All official correspondence shall be open to inspection in the Secretary's office at any time by any member of the Mission.

In addition to his other duties,

1. He shall become intimately acquainted with each station of the Mission and the work—general, educational, industrial and medical—which is conducted in it. As far as expedient, he shall visit each station at least once each year.

2. He shall report to Conference fully the knowledge gained of conditions, work and needs of each field, so far as these concern the Mission as a whole. Such reports shall be made available to the Board of Managers only after they shall have been considered by the Conference or Reference Committee.

Under special circumstances in which the Board of Managers may wish to secure prompt and first-hand information concerning conditions in a given station, the Board may initiate a request for a visit of the Mission Secretary to that station and a report by him upon the situation, which report shall be sent to the Board on the approval of the Reference Committee.

3. He shall confer with the Missionaries on each field in the interest of their work and its relation with that of the whole Assam Mission.

4. He shall endeavour by counsel and advice to bring the work of the whole Assam Field into a more vital union.

5. He shall be an ex-officio member of all Standing Committees of the Conference. (Tentative By-laws, Art. VII.)

6. He shall have no official dealings with the native community on any field but shall strive in a tactful way to come into a close and sympathetic relation with its members.

7. He shall be free to arrange his visits to any field at such times as seem best to him after correspondence with the missionaries on that field.

8. He shall be at liberty to seek any information from the missionaries on the several fields that he considers of interest to the work of any field or of the Assam Mission as a whole.

STANDING RESOLUTIONS.

Education.

The Committee recommend that in regard to standards and curricula there should be uniformity in our Mission, and that this uniformity should be sought by conformity to the Government curricula. (Conference Report, 1911.)

It is the duty of the Government to provide primary education for all its subjects. But the Government of India has not yet done this great duty and large numbers of the most ignorant of the people of Assam are without educational facilities.

It is legitimate use of Mission resources to expend them in educating those who are thus neglected in the Public School system, if in establishing schools for these neglected people the twofold aim of leading the pupils to Christ and of the formation of Christian character, predominates, together with a third and subordinate aim of diffusing Christian ideals throughout the community.

Division of Work.

In all cases where more than one missionary or missionary family find themselves together in one station, the missionaries in said station shall immediately agree upon a division of labour among themselves and submit the same in writing to the Committee of Reference for approval (Conference Minutes, 1915).

Uniform Account Books.

Resolved, that we commend to the attention of our missionaries the loose-leaf system of account-keeping presented by the Exhibit Committee, recommending that it be given a fair trial in as many cases as possible.

Exhibit.

Resolved, that at each future session of Conference we have an Exhibit similar to the one of the present Conference.

A.A.C. and A.B.C. Sessions.

Voted: that we instruct the Programme Committee of any session of Conference which may be held in connection with the All-Assam Convention, to arrange the programme so that there may be a full day between the sessions of the two bodies.

Religious Instruction.

That it is the judgment of the Educational Council that religious instruction should not as a rule be prohibited in any school over which agents of our Society have supervision, but we do not think they compromise any principle, by agreeing to give religious teaching at any time it may suit the wishes of the management of a school under Government control, so long as such instruction is given.

Rules for Scripture Translation.

1. In selecting translators, next to spiritual fitness, scholarly and linguistic qualifications are of paramount importance and no missionary of less than five years' standing should be selected.

2*a*. Wherever it is possible to form a small Board of competent persons using the same language, to translate or revise a version of the Scriptures, the work of a single translator or reviser is inadmissible for publication, except upon recommendation of said Board.

2*b*. Where it is not possible to form a Board, the individual missionary with similar qualifications and standing as under Rule 1, should seek the co-operation of his workers and Christian community, with a view to making the translation or revision as faithful, and in a style as easily understood by the people, as possible.

3. Where there is a difficulty to decide in what character a new version should be written, conference should be had with missionary brethren using a cognate language and this may be supplemented by consultation with the Executive Committee. The needless multiplication of accents and other diacritical marks should be avoided, and, if possible, done away with altogether in translated Scriptures, and in school-books, etc., used by the native community.

4. The adoption of a uniform system of transliteration and orthography in the tribal languages of Assam is of great urgency. It is therefore ruled that in the translation and revision of Scripture, and of all literature prepared and revised by our missionaries using such languages, the orthography of the same be in conformity with literature in the same languages, according to the latest rules laid down by Government.

5. That in all cases of translation, revision, or reprinting the advice of the Executive Committee should be sought and there should be the fullest co-operation between each Board or individual and the Executive Committee.

Conduct of Treasury.

It was voted: that the recommendation contained in A.C.R. No. 1107 be approved by Conference, with the amendment that appropriations for work may not be drawn more than three months in advance except on recommendation of the Executive Committee.

Conduct of Work.

Resolved: that in cases where a missionary is in temporary charge of another missionary's work, it be understood that the former shall make no radical change in the methods of work and policies of the latter unless after referring the matter of the proposed change to the Executive Committee he receives permission to make such change.

Board Bills.

It is the sense of Conference that members of Conference when presenting Board bills for attendance on Conference or Committee sessions, deduct at least Re. 1 per day as the cost of living at home.

Financial Statements to be sent to Secretary-Treasurer.

Case No. 1077.

Resolved: that all missionaries of the Assam Mission be requested to continue to send annually copies of their financial reports, and copy of covering letters to the Home Treasurer, to the Mission Secretary-Treasurer in order that detailed information contained therein may be available for the Reference Committee when apportioning their appropriations, it being the conviction of the A.C.R. that the requests for appropriations can receive more favourable consideration in the light of such information.

Designation of Missionaries.

Resolved: that it is the sense of this Conference that in all cases of designation of new or of old missionaries to stations for work or for temporary residence, the Executive Committee should secure, in case there are resident missionaries at the stations under consideration, the judgment of the Station Council or of the missionary or missionaries at stations where there may not be a Station Council as to the advisability of such designation for work or for temporary residence.

Secretary-Treasurer.

Resolved: that the Conference regret most deeply the necessity of having to declare vacant temporarily the office of Secretary-Treasurer: that we express to the Board of Managers our fullest confidence of the utility and practicability of the office, and the hope that in the very near future it may be possible to have it again in operation.

Conservation of Mission Property.

In view of the position of the Board of Managers regarding the conservation of mission property, the missionaries be instructed to see to it that possession of land be not pre empted by the erection of buildings out of private funds by native workers or others, and that they be further required to assess rent of dwellings and land belonging to the Mission when occupied by workers or others, any amount so realized to be disposed of as may be decided by the Executive Committee.

In case land or buildings are already occupied, the missionaries be instructed to take immediate steps to so safeguard the title of the Mission so that there can be no question as to our right; we would urge that great tact be exercised so as to avoid unnecessary litigation. That before any litigation be undertaken the matter be referred to the Executive Committee for sanction.

CONSTITUTION OF THE JORHAT CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS.

Article I.—Name.

These schools shall be known jointly as the Jorhat Christian Schools. Individually they shall be known as the Jorhat Christian Bible School, the Jorhat Christian High School and the Jorhat Christian Industrial School, commercially called the Toklai Shops and Farms.

Article II.—Control.

The control of the Jorhat Christian Schools, subject to the final authority of the Board of Managers of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, shall be vested in a Managing Committee in Assam and a Superintendent, and the Management of the Schools.

Article III.—Managing Committee.

Section 1. *Membership.*—The Managing Committee shall consist of five Missionary members elected by the Assam Conference and one Indian Christian member from each Association in Assam which wishes to be represented. Missionary members shall be elected for a term of four years except at the first election when two members shall be elected for two years, and three members for four, and thereafter at each Conference session, as many members shall be elected as shall be necessary to fill the place of those members whose terms of office then expire. Indian members shall be elected for a term of one year to correspond with the election of the Missionary members. Vacancies in the Missionary membership shall be filled temporarily by the Reference Committee. Vacancies in the Indian membership shall be filled temporarily by the committee of whatever name which represents its Association.

Section 2. *Meetings and Organization.*—The Managing Committee shall meet annually on the first Tuesday in October on call of the Chairman. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. The expenses of attending the meetings shall be borne by the Mission in case of Missionary members, and by the Association represented in case of the Indian members. At the annual meeting the Managing Committee shall elect a Chairman, a Vice-chairman (for language convenience), two Recording Secretaries, and an Executive committee of four who shall have authority to act for the Managing Committee in the interim between meetings of the Managing Committee. This Executive Committee shall meet in Jorhat annually on the last Tuesday in May for inspection of the Schools and for any business which may need attention before the meeting of the Managing Committee.

Section 3. *Functions.*—The functions of the Managing Committee shall be those belonging to the general direction of the work of the schools. In conjunction with the several heads of Departments of the schools as hereinafter defined, they shall have power to appoint or engage, to dismiss and to fix the salaries of the "confirmed employees" of the schools, and to fix the minimum and maximum rate of wages and salaries for non-confirmed employees. They shall also determine the amount of tuition and minimum rate for board and dormitory fees of students. In consultation with the Superintendent, they shall determine matters affecting the curricula, forms of industries, and the location and use of buildings. They shall elect the Superintendent and the Treasurer of the Schools, and from the "confirmed employees" they shall elect members to the Management.

Article IV.—The Management.

Section 1. *Membership.*—The Superintendent and Heads of the several departments, together with such other confirmed employees as shall be elected to that position by the Managing Committee, shall constitute the Management. Its officers shall be a Chairman, who shall be the Superintendent of the Schools, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The Superintendent and Treasurer shall be appointed by the Managing Committee to serve for one year. The Secretary shall be elected annually by the Management.

Section 2. *Function.*—The Management shall have charge of affairs of internal administration so far as these matters affect the schools as a whole, such as fixing of vacation periods, hostel regulations, determination of work hours, rules for discipline and the like. They shall also serve as an advisory body to the heads of the several departments who will report informally at each meeting of the Management regarding conditions in their departments. The Management is expected to be the main unifying factor in the schools, its meetings being for free and frank discussion of the work of each department. They shall, through the Superintendent, make an annual report to the Managing Committee.

Section 3. *Heads of Departments.*—For convenience of internal administration, the work of the school shall be divided into the Bible School, the High School, and the Industrial School departments and such other departments as the Management, from time to time, may think wise. The person in charge of each of these departments shall be known as a Head of that Department. The Head of a Department shall have perfect liberty within his own department in all matters except such as affect the schools as a whole. It is expected that the advice of the Management will be a strong influence in shaping the policy and practice of each department.

Section 4. *Superintendent.*—The Superintendent shall exercise general supervision over all the departments of the schools and be the responsible and recognized representative of the institution. He shall be ex-officio Chairman of the Management and shall represent the Management in the Managing Committee. With the assistance of the Heads of the several departments, he shall make an annual report to the Managing Committee.

Section 5. *Secretary.*—The Secretary shall be elected annually by the Management. He shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the Management and shall conduct such correspondence and keep such records as the Superintendent may require.

Section 6. *Treasurer.*—The Treasurer of the Schools shall be one of the Missionary members of the schools. All appropriations made to the school in the name of the Seperintendent, as well as other receipts, shall be turned over to the Treasurer who shall make payment to the several departments upon the written order of their respective heads, countersigned by the Superintendent. He shall keep complete and accurate accounts of all income and expenditures, submitting his account to the Managing Committee at least once a year for audit.

Article V.—Amendments.

The Constitution may be amended at any meeting of the Conference by a two-third vote of the members present provided that at least 24 hours intervene between the presentation of the amendment and the final action thereon.

By-Laws.

1. *Rates of salaries, etc.* — Within the limits set by the Managing Committee, the Heads of the several departments shall be at liberty, except in cases of "confirmed employees," to fix the rate of salaries, wages, fees, and the like without specific action of the Managing Committee; but in case of dissatisfaction appeal may be made to the Managing Committee whose word shall be final.

2. *Confirmed employees.*—An employee in the Jorhat Christian Schools may be "Confirmed," so far as the Mission is concerned, by the Managing Committee on recommendation of the Management. The Heads of the several departments shall have power to appoint, on salaries within the minimum and maximum limits, and to dismiss, all employees who have not been confirmed by the Mauaging Committee.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report.

I. Review of Year's Work.

OUR last session of Conference closed Feb. 24, 1916; it was followed by the Convention which in turn was followed by a session of the Committee of Reference. Hence it was well on towards the middle of March before we were able to return to our stations.

1. Travel. As you are aware, one of the duties assigned to the Mission Secretary is travel among our stations as much as possible to study conditions. Practically none of that has been done during the year, much to my regret and contrary to my plans and expectations. There has been quite a bit of travel and not a little time has been required to be spent out of the station, but it has not been along the lines planned by you. Shortly after returning from Nowgong, the session of the Bengal Assam Representative Council necessitated a trip to Calcutta. Before and after this time, the days and weeks were filled in efforts to get into shape the actions of the Reference Committee and Conference and other matters left by the sessions. Before this matter was all finished up, my family was leaving for U.S.A. and a trip was made to Calcutta to see them off. The uncertainty of sailings, and our desire to see a little of India proper—which latter occupied one full week and was the first and only week for some years when I was free from the responsibilities of the work of the Mission—lengthened this time to three weeks; but though away from Gauhati this length of time, I was away from the work only one week. Immediately after the family sailed, duty seemed to indicate that I should go to Shillong to be with Mr. Mason and do what I could to help him and our Garo brethren in their defence in the libel suit. This occupied some two and a half weeks, giving little opportunity for attention to other matters. Kohima and Upper Assam were asking for visits, but it seemed impossible to arrange for them, in view of the fact that it was considered desirable for me to be present to represent the Mission, at the time of the argument of the libel suit in Shillong, the date for which was left uncertain till the last. This occupied another full week the early part of July. Mr. Fox had been asking for his language examination for some little time and

affairs at Jorhat necessitated a trip there. These matters with twenty-four hours at Golaghat used up another two weeks. A later short trip was made to Jorhat concerning the purehase of the Chalmers property there. Much to my regret a rather extended trip to Kohima and a journey from there to Impur taking in the Ao Association had to be abandoned on the eve of departure due to radical changes in the office staff necessitated by the heavy cut in our appropriations. This was a keen disappointment. I wished to see and know more of the promising work in the Naga Hills and be present at the Ao associational meeting, consider the Impur transportation problem, a suitable site from which to prosecute the work among the Lhotas, meet with Mr. Tanquist on the Kohima field labouring under the double burden of school and evangelistic work and study conditions there. Also it has been impossible to visit Dibrugarh, Sadiya, Ledo, to make a study of the work in Upper Assam, all of which I had hoped to do during the year.

2. Committee Work. As you are well aware, the Reference Committee membership has been enlarged during the year and a member of the Woman's Society has sat as a member for the first time in our history. As in the preceding year, this Committee has served as the general Property Committee, three of its members having been chosen for that purpose.

(1) *Reference Committee.*—The work of the Reference Committee proper has been trying and very difficult. In our sessions, it has seemed more difficult than usual to reach conclusions satisfactory to all; this, with very perplexing problems which we have had to consider resulted in a very long session in the autumn. The members of the Committee and myself have felt that an explanation is due you for the long time spent in session. When it is recollected, however, that the usual autumn session for the passing of the budget of estimates has, since my connection with the Committee, required not less than ten days' time, and that this year the Committee had not only to pass on the estimates for the coming year, but to apportion the gross appropriations, which had been seriously cut below our appropriations for the previous year before they were passed on to us; also to consider the requests in connection with the Five-Year Programme, and such perplexing questions as to the best procedure in regard to the work in Manipur State and Goalpara District north bank, and two members having to give some time to auditing the Mission Treasurer's books, besides the regular run of business, it may not be an occasion of surprise that the session was a prolonged one. At the same time it was a disappointment to me that it had not been possible to have things in such shape that the Committee work could

be despatched more quickly. The proceedings of the Committee have been forwarded to you from time to time but special attention is called to one or two of the more important matters.

1st. Five-Year Programme.

You will have received the notices of the requests which were sent in to the Committee for consideration and also their recommendations. There doubtless have been disappointments that the Committee did not see its way to recommend all that was asked, but a little thought will show that that was out of the question. We recommended mueh more than we felt we could hope to receive, but, in the matter of reinforcements for this and next year particularly, we did not see how we could ask for less. I fear, however, in our requests for the five-year programme we have been inclined to eonfuse it with the intensive policy on which the Board had asked for a statement from us, rather than limit ourselves to a reasonable advance in the next five years.

2nd. Appropriations in Gross.

This was one of the most perplexing matters before us, and we feel that nearly every one of you have been greatly disappointed at the result. The difficulties before the Committee were set forth in some detail in the cireular letter from the Committee to you. It had not been found possible to complete a financial survey for the Mission as a basis on which to distribute the appropriations, because the Secretary had not been able to visit all the fields to make such survey; and because some members of the Conference failed to comply with the requests made by the Reference Committee the preceding year for annual financial reports and other information. Indeed, few furnished anything but the bare financial reports. An attempt was made to tabulate the appropriations for each individual for the last five years from the reeords in the Secretary's office, and some weeks of time of the office staff were spent in this effort but it was not successful, because of lack of information which could be had only from the Treasurer's books which were not accessible when needed. The list of additions to the budget as originally passed by the Board and specific donations—both of which are sometimes large and which should have consideration in any proper survey—can be found in its most complete form only in the Treasurer's books, and even this does not show any contributions sent direct to the missionaries. The fact that the Board had cut our appropriations 10% below those available for last year, seemed to leave no alternative but to take that year's appropriations as a basis for distribution. The Committee has doubtless made mistakes and been guilty of oversights, and, perhaps, in some eases, has cut

items, because of absence of some on furlough, or for other reasons which you feel could not stand the cut. The Committee tried to keep a substantial amount in the Reserve Fund, anticipating that there would be many calls on it, a number of which would have to be answered favourably. In behalf of the Committee I wish to state that while they may have made mistakes, they have tried to be fair to the work in the whole Mission, to free themselves of prejudice, and to follow the Golden Rule in this matter. We have asked the Board to make up the amount which we had to cut from our budget to meet the deficit for last year, and are still hoping that they will do so, though to date we have heard nothing from them on this matter. If this comes it should be possible to supplement the appropriations of most, if not all, of the missionaries.

(2) *Property Committee.*—While there has been not a little building work proceeding in the Mission during the year, little definite Property Committee work has been done. What has been done will no doubt find mention in the report of the Property Committee. Some proper provision for Mission building is one of our most pressing needs because of shortage of men who have abilities in this line; those who have are so overworked that the Committee has felt reluctant to add in any way to their burdens. The building work that has been in progress has been at Jorhat, Gauhati and Tura. I believe that the provision suggested in the draft of the constitution before you would provide mueh better for property interests than the present plan. The circle scheme could still be used, but the members of the general Property Committee could be chosen more with an eye to their fitness for such work. The thanks of the whole Mission are due to Mr. Carvell for the very generous giving of his time to building work in the Mission even though he has had to divert time and strength from his own special work. In view of his approaching furlough it is difficult to see what provision can be made for building work of the Mission, unless the Board can send us a builder in the near future.

(3) *Assamese Language Examination and Constitution Revision Committee.*—Work as an Examiner for Assamese during part of the year has required not a little time and also work on the Constitution Revision Committee. It was a mistake to serve on either of these committees with the many other matters in hand. But the mistake was recognized too late to mend.

(4) *Purchase of Property in Shillong.*—I am glad to be able to report that we have been given the refusal of two sites on Kenche's Trace and that enquiries were made in regard to our buying only a part of the two sites so as to be able to follow

the natural boundaries and not be cumbered with land that would be of no particular use to us. Assurance was given that there would be no difficulty in this. Mr. W. C. Mason, Dr. Kirby and Miss Bond have seen the sites and I believe think them very desirable. There is one difficulty in completing the purchase at this time, namely the regulation that building work must begun within a limited time after the sites are purchased. In view of this fact it will scarcely be possible to take further steps to purchase the sites until we have money in hand to erect the rest house.

(5) *North Bank Survey.*—Nothing has been done in this matter as yet.

(6) *Statistics.*—As Statistician I would report that statistical reports for 1915 were received from all of our fields but two. In the light of my experience with these reports let me suggest:—

(*a*) That each report be made out with the report of the previous year as a starting point so that the totals of the previous year plus any additions minus any losses will equal the totals of the present year as shown in the report.

(*b*) Care should be had to make the statistics as accurate as possible, if they are to serve any useful purpose.

(*c*) Each one should send in his reports and send them as promptly as possible. In case the statistics for the year reported are not available at the close of the year, as is true in some of our fields, send in the statistics for the previous year. Better to have them a year old than not to have them at all as is likely to be the case if they are late.

3. The Office.

Since the last report was given the work of the office has increased rather than diminished. This is natural, for, as it becomes known more generally that we have such an office, more things are likely to be referred to it from outside. Such matters as Five-Year Programme and Appropriations in Gross, in preparation for which a financial summary of the appropriations for the last five years was attempted, have added their share. Work has been disposed of slowly, because the year began with a new staff and the forced reductions in office expenses toward the close of the year, made necessary by the cut in our budget, again disturbed the personnel of the staff and that before the work of the last session of the Reference Committee was finished up. As might be expected, the Treasury work has added much to the work of the office during this year for several reasons, prominent among which was the lack of experience both in accounting and treasury work on the part both of myself and the Treasury clerk. We have had to blaze our own trail for the

most part with practically nothing to guide us, either in the form of instructions from the Home Treasurer, or in the shape of books and records of previous treasurers. My predecessor gave valuable information on some matters, and this help was appreciated. We have tried to conduct the work along the lines which the general sentiment of the missionaries seems to approve as right, and along the lines followed by the Treasurers in our other Missions. There have been matters on which there has been dissatisfaction expressed; one of these was the action taken at the last meeting of the Committee of Reference asking for a specification as to the amount drawn on salary and on appropriations accounts. This action grew out of the fact that some few members of the Mission had overdrafts at the close of the last fiscal year and the Treasurer's books were to be audited; also the fact that the Treasurer is believed to be personally responsible for overdrafts which he allows beyond one month's salary. Since this is so it is only fair to him that he know just how much he is paying out on that account. I trust that Conference will take definite action approving this action of the Committee of Reference. We recognize that any of us sometimes may be in tight places, and as you will have known we have asked the Board for help in such times; no reply has come to hand to date. In closing these remarks on the Treasury work I wish to express my appreciation of helpful suggestions given by Mr. Dring and Mr. Longwell of our own Mission, of Mr. Phinney of the Burma Mission. I would acknowledge also the willingness of the clerk, who has been faithfulness itself in his attention to the work during the year.

II. Actions before us, as a Conference, this year.

A number of them are very important and consequently should be considered very carefully. Some have held over from previous sessions, others have been presented to the Reference Committee by the Secretary, and others, and referred by them to you for consideration, because they seemed to involve so much that the Conference should be given the privilege and asked to assume the responsibility for action on them. These have been enumerated in the agenda.

1. Matters holding over from previous Session.

(1) *Constitution Revision.*—The Committee on this subject has, as you are aware, circulated two drafts for consideration. I would suggest that we make changes which seem particularly desirable in our present constitution and by-laws, but that we do no more, till after the results of the consideration of organization at the Newton Centre Conference are out, and the Board's actions on them are available. This matter is almost certain to be referred to us then.

(2) *New Missionaries as Probationers.*—I would suggest that this also be postponed till after the Newton Centre Conference where it is to be considered.

2. Referred by the Reference Committee.

(1) *Woman's Work.*—This has to do particularly with the request for a school for the Christian girls in Upper Assam and the request for a medical plant. These two requests came before the Committee at its last session, as you may know. Most of the members of the Committee were ready to recommend both needs on the same basis asking for money for both from the Mrs. Rockefeller Fund, but there was not unanimity. Since this was the case and the Woman's Council also was divided, it seemed best to refer these matters to the Conference. If both cannot be recommended on the same basis, it seems to me that the more important need is the school or schools in Upper Assam as being more directly evangelistic. The work for women in the Ao Naga field also was considered in this connection, but the issue was not as sharply drawn as between the other two requests.

(2) The question of discontinuing the work on the North Bank Goalpara District arises as a result of Mr. Bowers' representation to the Committee of Reference, that, if he has to continue it from Goalpara, he wishes to give it up and have a transfer to some other field. In view of the cut which we received last autumn in our budget for the current year, there seems to be a little prospect of acquiring property in Dhubri, and hence the Committee felt that the only thing to do, in case Mr. Bowers holds to his former position, on this matter is to discontinue that work except possibly such part as lies up near Kamrup and can be taken care of along with the work of that district, but felt that the question was one for Conference in view of previous actions.

(3) *Centralization of our Work in the Naga Hills and Manipur.*—The consideration of this arose from requests presented in connection with the Five-Year Programme and as presented seemed to involve such a radical departure from the way in which we have been developing our work in that part of Assam that the Conference should pass on it. It is an important matter and deserves careful consideration.

(4) *Uniform Practice in charging Board Bills when attending Reference Committee or other Committee and Conference Sessions.*—Our cut in appropriations has emphasized the need of some uniformity and also some adjustments of former practices. For example, A attends a committee session and takes his wife and they cater for themselves, he bears the whole of his outlay for food himself; B does not take his family, he boards and charges the whole of his board bill to the Society; or, if he be attending

Conference, he charges half. It is clear that the payment of those bills so, without any allowance for what it would have cost him to live at home, is tantamount to increasing his salary by so much. This seems hardly equitable.

There should also be some provision for checking and passing bills submitted by members for expenses incurred in attending the Conference sessions. The present practice is to submit them to the Mission Treasurer who is expected to pay half and ask no questions. If it is wise to have bills for attending committee sessions reviewed—and I believe that it is—it would seem wise also to have those for attending Conference also reviewed by a committee of the Conference especially appointed for this purpose, or for some standing committee such as the Committee of Reference to review them.

(5) The matter of our acceding to the request of the "Society for the Propagation of the Gospel" that their missionaries be allowed to take our language examination in Assamese will be reported on by the Committee on languae examinations. It would seem to be a courtesy that should be extended.

(6) There is danger of our property slipping away from us in some quarters by the fact that people have been allowed to build and dwell on Mission land for years without any formal recognition of the Society's ownership of the land. There should be an action of Conference on this matter to be placed among the standing resolutions for the guidance of our missionaries.

(7) The Committee hopes also that the Conference will approve of its action in Case No. 1077 asking that financial reports be submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer's office for file and reference when dealing with distribution of appropriations. Some have failed to send in such reports either intentionally or through neglect. This is a form of co-operation all should be willing to join in, and is necessary for the office and the use of the Reference Committee. You cannot expect the Secretary-Treasurer or the Committee to perform well the task assigned them unless you are willing to help. I trust that the Conference will take action on this matter and place the action among the standing resolutions.

(8) The action on temporarily withdrawing from the Bengal-Assam Council was taken only on account of the stringency in our finances. I believe that it is worth our while to continue in the Council for the help we may hope for on general questions, such as our relations with the Government in Manipur; the persecution of the Naga Christians; presenting questions pertaining to educational work, etc. The Council serves as a channel of appeal when we are not able to adjust these matters satisfactorily with the Government. I would advise staying on, if possible, and certainly, if the Board makes up our deficit.

(9) The question of the wisdom of continuing to co-operate with Government in educational work in the non-regulation districts arises as the result of the recent trouble in the Garo Hills arising from our co-operation with Government there. The Educational Council may have some report to make on this matter. In spite of all the difficulties which we have experienced in this case, it seems to me that co-operation with Government to the greatest degree possible is wise, because (1) we are educating subjects of another Government and we should aim to keep them in touch with and loyal to that Government; (2) we are dependent on Government to give our schools recognition, or our Christians will be under serious disadvantages; (3) to secure recognition we must keep them up to certain standards and hence might as well go a little farther and secure Government help in the work which it is its duty to do. It would seem that the only exceptions would be those schools which are run for evangelistic purposes only, and in which education is a secondary matter. The combination which was met with in the Garo Hills is not likely to be met often, and when we do have to meet it, our experience in that case should point the way for action in the future which would in large measure avoid the difficulties into which we have fallen.

3. Referred by the Board of Managers.

Since the agenda was drawn up, letters have come from the Board asking for the action of Conference on a number of matters, notably,

1*st*. Formal adoption of the Five-Year Programme and co-operation in it.

2*nd*. More information on the needs for men and money requested in our statement of needs and the Five-Year Programme. The Committee of Reference suggests that each station be responsible for this information from its own station, but would call attention to the necessity of the information being in harmony with that sent in by the Committee of Reference, where the Committee have sent any.

3*rd*. Limiting our work on the N.E. Frontier to Abors only for the present.

4*th*. Request that days of Board meetings be days of special prayer.

5*th*. Setting aside a month for prayer for the Five-Year Programme.

6*th*. The educational policy for Assam and the definite plans for Jorhat as set forth in booklet and drawings sent out by Mr. Tilden. The booklet some of you have seen. This was received only last Saturday and it has not been possible to get it into the hands of all. The map and plans for Jorhat came

since I reached Sibsagar. This is one of the most important matters before us at this session. If we find it possible to adopt this policy some of our most perplexing problems find solution, namely, a unified educational policy and incidentally the languages for use among the Hill tribes and the amount of literature that will be required in them. I hope that we can adopt this policy with its provision for secular and religious education of our constituency, covering the field, as it does, from village school to college and post-graduate work. This whole scheme will do much toward unifying the work of the Mission Such a statement for each the evangelistic and medical work should be prepared. There are difficulties which occur to me in the Jorhat end of the scheme, notably the bunching of a large number of missionaries there in a work which will bring them into the closest relations with each other and will necessitate the interlocking of the work. We have not yet been able to prove that we can work along those lines in Assam with our Baptist ideas of independence and of individual responsibility to God.

If we desire to instruct our delegates to the Newton Centre Conference on the matters to be discussed there, action will be required. I would point out, however, that we are requested not to give them hard and fast instructions in view of the fact that the findings of that Conference are to be referred to the several missions for sanction.

III. Organization.

I would suggest continuing along the present lines for the present. As stated in the remarks on the constitution it would seem inopportune to make any radical changes at this session.

1. So far as the Secretary office which you created is concerned, it is, I believe, to become an important factor in our work. I would urge its continuance and believe that there is only one consideration that is strong enough at present to lead to its suspension and that is our depleted forces. Inasmuch as the Board seems very much interested in this office, perhaps the giving it up temporarily for lack of forces would be the strongest argument we could present that our situation is desperate. To give up the office permanently, I believe, would be a mistake in our present light. The fact that the first four years of its life may not have effected all the results desired should not discourage us. I realize most deeply my inability to accomplish all that was desirable. But from the first I have contended that the office should not be condemned merely because it has failed of its highest usefulness under its first

incumbent. Other and better men doubtless can accomplish much more, and more nearly fulfill your expectations. It may be that later you will wish to abandon the Secretaryship altogether. Other missions are not taking up the idea readily, excepting only East China, and it may be that some of them are finding solutions to the field organization problem, which would be more satisfactory for us than anything we have been able to work out; but we neither have sufficient information in regard to that, nor have we fully tried out our own plan. When the office staff becomes trained and used to the work, there is hope of getting away more to visit fields. The Treasury clerk has had a year in the office and has now learned that work in all its phases, and, if spared, should be able another year to do practically all of the work in that department, except the more complicated correspondence. He could also oversee the other clerk when the Secretary is absent. If the steno-typist's services had not had to be dispensed with, that branch of the work also should have taken much less time another year. When we have a properly trained clerk for Secretary work, if it is not possible for the Secretary-Treasurer to visit the fields more, the Secretary should be relieved of the Treasury work. Indeed I doubt if the Mission Secretary can do the Treasury work except at a greater or less sacrifice of his own work. A combined Mission Treasurership for our Missions in India has been suggested, and, if practicable, would relieve the Secretary of the Treasury work. It might be well to propose this as a subject for discussion at the Newton Conference. The proposal for Jorhat as worked out by Mr. Tilden suggests another possibility of taking care of the Treasury work.

2. There is one phase of our organization which merits careful study, namely the relation of our "Agencies of Field Administration to the Work of the Woman's Society." In view of the fact that this matter finds a place in the list of subjects suggested for consideration at the Newton Centre Conference, it would seem to be a live question in other of our missions also. Any difficulties in this matter seem to grow out of the supposition that the Woman's Society work and workers are semi-independent from those of the General Society. But is such really the case? In the study of this question let us note the status of the missionaries of the Woman's Society. [The only reliable authorities on this subject which were accessible to me are "A Manual of Reference for the Missionaries of the Woman's Baptist Foreign Mission Society issued by the Board of Directors in 1906"; a joint circular letter dated Boston, January 8, 1915, from the Secretaries of the Woman's Society and the General Society addressed to the "Missionaries of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society and of the Woman's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society"; and a

circular letter from Mrs. Safford dated Boston, July 1915. To these reference is made in the following paragraphs.]

(1) *Their Relations to the Boards.*—They are appointed by both Boards (Manual, p. 3; Joint Letter, p. 1, para. 2), the ultimate decision in matters relating to their work rests with the Board of the Woman's Society subject to the approval and confirmation of the General Society Board (Manual, p. 4, near top; Joint Letter, bottom of p. 1); Woman's Society missionaries are expected to make representations direct to their Board in cases of matters referred to Reference Committees (Manual, near middle of p. 4); funds both for salary and work are paid through the general Treasury (Manual, p. 3, para. 1; Joint Letter, p. 2 top).

(2) *Relations on the Field.*—(*a*) In the station, they are not to make radical changes or make independent plans without full consultation with the other missionaries there, and in case of disagreement the judgment of the missionary or missionaries of the General Society should be followed pending correspondence and settlement by the Woman's Board and the General Board (Manual, p. 3); in the general work of the station the general care and responsibility for the work rests with the General Society missionary; if a missionary of the Woman's Society be left in charge she should make her first concern the advancement of the general work, even though her own special work may have to suffer by her so doing (Manual, p. 5). All should work together on the Station Council; all are on equal footing and each should abide by the majority vote (Joint Letter, p. 2 bottom, p. 3 top and bottom, p. 4 top).

(*b*) Their relationship to Conference and its committees is just the same as that of the missionaries of the General Society, their work being subject to review and recommendation, the same as that of the other missionaries (Joint Letter, p. 2, para. 2). They also should be adequately represented on the Reference and other committees so far as practicable (Manual, p. 4; Joint Letter, pp. 4 & 5).

(*c*) *Woman's Committee.*—Such a committee is desirable to give advice on questions which affect peculiarly woman's work, and it should be composed of two married and three single missionary ladies (Joint Letter, p. 5, para. 3; Woman's Society Letter, July, 1915, p. 5, para. III).

(*d*) *Financial.*—Appropriations are to be used for purposes given, careful accounts must be kept and rendered, estimates are to be submitted to the Reference Committee for review (p. 6 bottom); balances are to be returned to the Society Treasury, but the Board will consider requests for permission to keep and use them; the Board will also meet deficits under certain circumstances (Manual, p. 8 top). The Mission Trea-

surer pays Woman's Society funds according to instructions from Boston (Manual, p. 9).

Conclusions.—We find that the Woman's Society missionaries are on practically the same basis as the rest of us, their ultimate responsibility being to the General Society. As such, it would seem that they should be entitled to the same representation, no more and no less. A Woman's Council or Committee seems to provide special representation, if in addition to that there is representation on the Reference and other committees. Would it not be sufficient to have the Woman's Council which could make recommendations to the Reference Committee as the Woman's Board at home does to the General Board? or let there be no Woman's Council or Committee and let the Woman's Society missionaries be represented on the Reference and other committees. To have both is certainly double representation. Of the two each has its own advantages. Representation on the Reference and other co nmittees would seem to work for unity and would do away with complications such as were met with last summer, but it has the disadvantage of making it difficult to consider matters on their merits, especially where the men members have to take a position opposed to that held by the ladies. Men naturally wish to be courteous and shrink from anything that would harrow the feelings of the gentler sex; hence unless the ladies are able to give and take as the rest of us—a thing which is almost impossible with their finer sensibilities—there is danger that the decisions arrived at may not reflect the deliberate judgment of the members of the Committee, which would be a serious mistake. This situation would be avoided if there be a Woman's Committee without representation on the Reference Committee. This seems to be the plan which the Boards at home have found most feasible. In any case there should not be double representation.

IV. Situation on our Fields.

As stated in a previous part of the report, it has been possible for me to visit none of our fields since our last session to make a study of the work, but for the most part, so far as reports have been received, the work is progressing favourably in spite of the short staff.

1. Tura seems to present the most discouraging situation. In this field the depletion of the missionary staff for some years past and the great amount of work to be taken care of and the obligation to Government for the prosecution of the school work, which has made it necessary to give that feature of the work first attention, has resulted in the more strictly evangelistic work being neglected, a circumstance greatly regretted by

all of the staff. It has been proposed that we should hand the educational work over to Government now. The Committee of Reference approved, some years ago, a plan looking to this; but it would seem that the Government is in no better position to assume responsibility for the schools at present than we, and unless we are prepared to break off relations with Government entirely in our school work in the Province and wish to prejudice the officials against all of our work, it would seem unwise to force the hands of Government in this matter when they are so occupied with the great war. The case seems to me desperate. We can not lay down the work and it would seem that our present staff cannot carry it on. But for the obligation to Government we might manage some way. This is the most distressing situation before us, as a Mission, at this Conference session. May our Father lead to right decisions. Man's wisdom does not suffice.

2. The work in other parts is encouraging, though there doubtless are some discouraging features on each field. In addition to the general growth and Christian progress, special mention should be made of:—

(*a*) The continually increasing opportunity for work among the student and educated classes which Dr. and Mrs. Witter find at Gauhati where day after day they have the privilege of presenting Christ definitely to men from all over the Province who are destined to be leaders. They feel that numbers of these men are not far from the kingdom and a few are very close.

(*b*) A good interest in the annual Bible classes on the various fields has been reported and the attendance and interest and evidences of profit from the Bible Conference at Golaghat are reported greater than ever.

(*c*) The evangelistic campaign at Lumding, Jorhat, and Sibsagor and the apparently beneficial results both on those whom it has been the aim to reach and also on the workers themselves are most encouraging. It is unfortunate that this effort could not have been extended to other large centres in the plains.

(*d*) Progress has been made at Jorhat where there has been added to the High School the highest class, and now comes word that the school has become affiliated with the University of Calcutta.

(*e*) Sadiya shows continued growth in the evangelistic work among the plains peoples and in the medical work: and the hills people are coming more under Christian influence. Abor boys have applied for admission to the station school.

(*f*) The work among the Ao and Lhota tribes is also encour-

aging, the reports from the last Association indicating real progress and launching out on new lines by the churches in both evangelistic and educational work.

(*g*) Kohima reports the best year both in evangelistic and school work.

(*h*) The work in Manipur has progressed most encouragingly in spite of the fact that the missionary has had to be absent from the State and has had to carry on the work under the most trying limitations. The work at Ukhrul has gone on satisfactorily and the progress among the Kukis has continued. Most of you will have known that the Honourable the Chief Commissioner did not see his way to give a favourable reply to the appeal sent to him by us at our last session. The matter of our situation in the State was presented to the National Council of India for advice. They advise that if we wish to press the matter the proper procedure would be to appeal to our Local Government through the Bengal-Assam Council; but the Secretary of the National Council, Rev. Herbert Anderson, considers it unwise for us to press the matter at this time in view of the fact that our Society represents a neutral country. Mr. Pettigrew would be fairly well satisfied if he could have the opportunity of touring in the western hills. It is difficult to foresee the future but in the meantime the gospel is being preached and souls are being saved.

V. Our Missionary Force.

When we consider this subject we are face to face with a most serious problem. Death has come among us since we last met and taken one of our oldest and ablest missionaries in our late Brother P. H. Moore.

As anticipated at our last session, we have lost Mr. W. C. Mason, apparently permanently, from our staff here in Assam. Misses Bond and Holmes and Mrs. Kampfer and Mrs. Tuttle have proceeded on furlough and now Mr. and Mrs. Dring, Dr. and Mrs. Bailey, Mr. and Mrs. Firth, Dr. and Mrs Witter, Miss Doe, Mr. Kampfer and Mr. Tuttle are expecting to leave us in the spring. Mr. Carvell also is expected to go, and Mr. and Mrs. P. E. Moore may have to.

To make good these losses we have had Mr. and Mrs. Harding, Mr. Paul, Mrs. Stephen and Mrs. Bowers returned to us. Mr. and Mrs. Tilden have been delayed in their coming as have also Dr. and Mrs. Ahlquist. We are to look for these—Dr. and Mrs. Crozier, Mr. and Mrs. Jackman, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, Miss Long and the two Misses Holmes next autumn. Till then our total vacancies will be 15 men, 16 wives, 4 lady workers with no one to fill their places; or if we count the two families

and three ladies, who have not finished their language work and so should not really be considered as full missionaries in the sense of being able to replace those who have left for furlough or otherwise, we have a total of 17 men and 18 wives and 4 ladies with no one to take their places without robbing other fields either by transfer or for oversight of work. Of this number (17), 11 are evangelistic missionaries, 3 medical, 2 educational, 1 general; of the ladies there are 2 evangelistic.

Or to state this matter another way, who is to fill Mr. Drings', Dr. Phillips' and Dr. Crozier's places, assuming that Mr. Mather fills Mr. W. C. Mason's, which is too much to expect till he has a chance to finish his language work? Who is to fill the places of Dr. and Mrs. Witter, Mr. Kampfer, our late Brother Moore, Miss Long, Mr. and Mrs. P. E. Moore, Mr. Carvell, Mr. Tilden, Mr. and Mrs. Jackman, Mr. and Mrs. Firth, Dr. and Mrs. Bailey, Dr. and Mrs. Rivenburg, and Mr. Tuttle? When the party comes in the autumn there will still be no provision for the Mikir work, the Nowgong work, the North Lakhimpur work, Dr. Witter's work, Mr. Kampfer's work, or the place held by Mr. Tuttle. Mr. Swanson and Mr. and Mrs. Fox expect to take furlough in the spring of 1918. Of those expected this fall only one family may be counted on for evangelistic work, the others being for medical or educational work and at best we should not expect much from two of them till they shall have had their two years for language study. Our situation is a very serious one and calls loudly for relief. Yet in reply to our request from Nowgong last year for seven families, we were told that to have sent them would have consumed all of our budget.

VI. Urgent Needs.

1. *Missionary Recruits.*—Enough missionary recruits to fill the vacant places and to keep our force up to normal working strength. As you will have seen from the statement above, this will require a large number of missionaries especially for the evangelistic work to keep us from losing more ground, not to mention the opportunities open for a more intensive occupation of the fields already worked.

2. *Builder.*—This need is now more urgent than ever in view of Mr. Carvell's prospective furlough. Work has suffered severely for lack of such a man. Tura has been perplexed with the work of remodelling the school house for lack of such help. The hostel at Gauhati, for which we have a small sum of money to make a start, we have not been able to touch. The Nowgong and North Lakhimpur bungalows need remodelling badly but no one is able to undertake the work. The

prospect is that there will be building operations at Jorhat for some years to come, not to mention other building work for the Mission.

3. *Work for Women.*—This need is urgent not only because of its great importance, but also because the time is opportune. The women and girls of Assam are the real index of her progress in and towards Christianity. Our Christian men will not be as useful as they should be, until they have wives with high ideals of their privileges and responsibilities in their homes. We may expect the best from the next generation only as the mothers are prepared to train their children. Nor can we hope to have decisions for Christ from many of the young non-Christian men, such as Dr. and Mrs. Witter are working for, unless there is some place where prospective wives for such men will have come under the influence of the Gospel so that they would be ready to marry such young men. The means of influencing these young women which gives the most promise of fruitage, is in establishing schools for them. To influence them the schools must be placed where they will reach them, and that means all over the plains at least, for we cannot hope to have Hindu and Mohammedan girls enter boarding schools. While it is wise to limit the number of boarding schools for our Christian girls, especially of higher grade, and we should be on our guard against educating them so highly and rapidly that suitable husbands cannot be found for them among our Christian men, such limits should not be set for the non Christian women. It has been proposed that we follow the same policy of centralization in our girls' schools as in our boys' schools. That would be a mistake. The situation is different in our school work for boys; we lost our day and cannot longer offer much attraction for the boys in the way of education, in view of what Government has done. It is not so for girls, but it soon will be, and unless we wish to allow our opportunity to slip from us for ever, we should be up and doing. Some say progress slowly! Impossible! If we do Government will eat our breakfast while we are getting ready for it. I wish we might have a good Mission girls' school in every important centre of our Mission. But in our educational work for women let us make it evangelistic, whether it be day or boarding school.

4. *Housing.*—Another year has passed and no proper housing has been provided for our Mikir missionaries in the Nowgong District. Even the little camp house has not been built; and worst of all, the very imperfect shelter which our missionaries had, was, as you all know, destroyed by fire as were also practically all of their personal effects. They have been wonderfully patient and uncomplaining in it all, but that should

not deter us from making strong representations to the Board on the need of a bungalow for the missionary for Mikir work in the Nowgong District.

VII. Review.

In this present depressing situation in our Mission, I cannot close without a brief review of the progress of the last seven years. While the present situation is not the most encouraging in the Tura field and in Manipur, there are unmistakable signs of God's blessing during the years. To mention only a few of the more conspicuous signs of progress:—Kohima has a second family ready for work there and actively occupied in it; there have been additions to the equipment in the way of a second bungalow and chapel. Impur has added a physician to her staff. Golaghat has additional equipment in the form of a bungalow and a chapel. The work at Jorhat has developed wonderfully, a high school having been developed and affiliation secured; one family having been added to the staff with the promise of one more, and the equipment has been increased by the erection of the hostel and dining hall, the purchase of a second bungalow and the erection of another begun, not to mention equipment in the way of land, etc. Nowgong has seen the opening of the Teacher Training School with good equipment both in dormitory and school building, the erection of the Bible school building and the addition of three ladies to the staff. Gauhati has seen the opening of the work for students with funds available for a hostel, thus making possible the college education of our Christian boys under Christian influence; Mr. and Mrs. Kampfer have come and developed the excellent work on the North Bank; the plant for work for women has been secured and three ladies have been added to the staff. Thus, in spite of the present darkness there are evidences that God has been with us. The work has been wonderfully blessed on all our fields in spite of our present reduced staff; thousands of souls have come to a knowledge of the Lord.

When I came to Assam seven years ago after nearly three years' absence, it was with a determination to spend and be spent in this part of the Master's vineyard. The work that has been allotted to me most of this period, serving tables as it were, has not been as congenial to me as the evangelistic work. Still I have tried to be contented and happy in it; for, after all, the desire of each of us is to be where it would seem that God would have us. In trying to start this new office on its way, my horizon has been enlarged. The work as a whole means much more to me. I have learned to appreciate as never before the sterling qualities in my fellow-

missionaries, their faithfulness and consecration to the Master's cause. I have grown to sympathize with you in the trials and difficulties under which the majority of you have laboured. I have learned to honour you anew for your devotion to duty under trying circumstances. It has been a pleasure to work with you. I wish to acknowledge publicly the help which has been so generously offered and frequently given by Dr. and Mrs. Witter from time to time when they have seen that office work was pressing. Indeed, they have offered more than their own health and work would allow me to accept. I thank you all heartily for your kind co-operation and forbearance with me. Wherein I have failed I ask your forgiveness. I assure you of my loyalty to you and the Assam Mission.

Respectfully submitted.

(Sd.) A. J. TUTTLE,

Secy.-Treas.

INDEX.

	Pages
Annual Financial Reports	12
Appeal to Conference	14, 15, 18
Bengal-Assam Council	12, 14
Christian Endeavour	11
COMMITTEES—	
Auditing	25
Executive	7, 13
Expenses of Conference	8
Managing Committee, Jorhat	7
Constitution	29-31
,, Revision	6, 7, 17, 20
,, Jorhat Schools	36, 39
Conservation of Mission Property	11
Correspondent—*Missionary Review*	7
Conference, All Baptist Missionaries	15
Delegates to Newton Centre Conference	10, 16
Directory—*Missionary Review*	15
Editor, Field Reports	7
Educational Council	19
Exec. Comm., Authority to co-opt	11
Expense Bills	14
FIELD REPORTS—	
Golaghat	14
Kohima	14
Sadiya	11
Sibsagor	11
Ukhrul	14
Five-Year Programme	12, 21
General Treasurer	12
Goalpara, N. Bank	8, 15
Greetings to Missionaries	6
Greetings to M.E. Conference	25
Halliwell, Rev. Herbert	5
Hospital Plant	9, 11, 13, 17
Jorhat Proposition	5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 18
Letter, Reply to Conference	8, 25
Memorial	13
National Council Regarding Comity	14
Next Conference	13, 19
N.E. Frontier	15
Officers	1
Officers of Next Conference	1, 7
Printing Minutes	8, 19, 21
Probationers	9
Relation, Woman's Society	12, 16, 17
Reporting Periodicals	4
Resolution of Thanks	21

REPORTS— *Pages*

Comity 21
Constitution Revision 6
Educational Council 28–29
Executive Committee 15
Expenses of Conference 21
Librarian 13, 26
Needs 19, 22–24
Property 25, 26
Secretary 6, 9, 11, 40
Statistician 13
Standing Resolutions 20
Time and Place 7, 13

Secretary-Treasurer 5
Secretary, Rules for 31–32
School, Girls' Boarding 18
Treasurer 8, 21
Treasury 9
Women's Work 9, 10, 11

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